



## **4TH MILITARY INFORMATION SUPPORT GROUP**

### **(AIRBORNE)**

### **FACT SHEET**

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The 4<sup>th</sup> Military Information Support Group (MISG) remains the active Army's only military information support operations unit.

The ranks of the 4<sup>th</sup> MISG include regional experts and linguists who understand political, cultural, ethnic and religious subtleties. With functional experts in all aspects of tactical communications, the 4<sup>th</sup> MISG offers joint force commanders unmatched abilities to influence target audiences as well as support to U.S. diplomacy.

Military information support operations are a vital part of the broad range of U.S. political, military, economic and ideological activities used by the U.S. government to secure national objectives. MISO is the dissemination of information to foreign audiences in support of U.S. policy and national objectives.

Used during peacetime, contingencies and declared war, these activities are not forms of force, but are force multipliers that use nonviolent means in often violent environments. Persuading rather than compelling physically, they rely on logic, fear, desire or other mental factors to promote specific emotions, attitudes or behaviors. The ultimate objective of U.S. military information support operations is to convince enemy, neutral, and friendly nations and forces to take action favorable to the United

**Strategic military information support operations** advance broad or long-term objectives. Global in nature, it may be directed toward large audiences or at key communicators.

**Operational military information support operations** are conducted on a smaller scale. It is employed by theater commanders to target groups within a theater of operations. Its purpose can range from gaining support for U.S. operations to preparing the battlefield for combat.

**Tactical military information support operations** are more limited, used by commanders to secure immediate and near-term goals. In this environment, these force-enhancing activities serve as a means to lower the morale and efficiency of enemy forces.

States and its allies.

Military information support operations support national security objectives at the tactical, operational and strategic levels of operations.

Both tactical and theater-level MISO may be used to enhance peacetime military activities of conventional and special operations forces operating in foreign countries. Cultural awareness packages attune U.S. forces before departing overseas. In theater, media programs publicize the positive aspects of combined military exercises and deployments.

In addition to supporting commanders, MISO units provide interagency support to other U.S. government agencies. In operations ranging from humanitarian assistance to drug interdiction, Military Information Support Operations enhance the impact of those agencies' actions. Their activities can be used to spread information about ongoing programs and to gain support from the local populace.

The 2,400-member unit is also slated to grow to approximately 2,700 troops by the year 2011.

